



City of San Diego

CARL DEMAIO
CITY COUNCILMEMBER -DISTRICT 5

DONNA FRYE
CITY COUNCILMEMBER -DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 2009

TO: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith
Council President Ben Hueso

FROM: Councilmember Donna Frye *Donna Frye*
Councilmember Carl DeMaio *Carl DeMaio*

RE: A Process for Considering Mayor/Council Reforms in 2010 Elections

As you know, in November 2004 Proposition F was approved by voters to change the governance of the City of San Diego from Manager/Council to Mayor/Council for a trial period of five years, beginning on January 1, 2006.

In June 2008 voters approved Prop B and instructed the City Council to put a single measure on the June 2010 ballot to make Mayor/Council form of government permanent, raise the number of City Council votes needed for an override of a Mayoral veto to two-thirds, and add a ninth City Council seat.

Recently there has been the suggestion that additional Mayor/Council reforms be included on the June 2010 ballot. We have serious concerns about this. Including additional initiatives is premature, could confuse issues and would circumvent the will of the people.

Additional refinements to the Strong Mayor form of government should not be placed before the voters until November 2010, after the issue of permanency is decided in the June 2010 election.

Mayor/Council Reforms
September 17, 2009
Page Two

While the issues to be placed June's ballot have been approved by the voters, the language that would constitute the necessary amendments to the City Charter remains to be drafted.

Accordingly, we request that the City Attorney's office provide draft language to the Mayor and City Council – in a manner strictly consistent with Prop B. Additionally, we request that the Council President docket that language for a public hearing before the Rules Committee at the earliest convenience.

In the past, both a City Council and Citizens Advisory Committee were created to assist in the transition to the Mayor/Council form of government. As to additional reforms that could be placed on the November 2010 ballot, it is our belief that the Mayor and City Council should initiate a process that maximizes public participation and input in the discussion and possible selection of additional reforms.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

CC Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers